

**IN THE UNITED STATES  
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

APPLICANT: Albert K. Chin  
APPLICATION NO.: 09/635,345  
FILING DATE: August 9, 2000  
TITLE: Apparatus and Methods for Subxiphoid Endoscopic  
Access  
EXAMINER: Thomas C. Barrett  
GROUP ART UNIT: 3738  
ATTY. DKT. NO.: 80121-07179  
MAIL STOP AMENDMENT  
COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. BOX 1450  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT**

Sir:

Responsive to the official action dated September 6, 2006 received in the patent application identified above, please amend the claims as indicated herein.